

Message Text

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COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 ERDA-07 FMC-02

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

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TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, IATTC

SUBJECT: 32ND MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL
TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

1. THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF IATTC OPENED 13 OCTOBER
ON FRIENDLY BUT SERIOUS NOTE AS DELEGATIONS SET ABOUT
BUSINESS OF RESOLVING SEVERAL VERY DIFFICULT ISSUES
FACING COMMISSION AT THIS TIME. MEETING IS ATTENDED
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT MEMBER COUNTRIES: CANADA,
COSTA RICA, FRANCE, JAPAN, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA,
AND UNITED STATES. REPRESENTATIVES OF OBSERVER NATIONS
CHILE, ECUADOR, CUBA, KOREA, AND SPAIN ARE ALSO IN
ATTENDANCE. LEVEL OF MEETING IS HIGHER THAN NORMAL
AND, AT LEAST IN MEXICO'S CASE, TACTICS RELATED TO
UPCOMING NY MEETING SEEM VERY MUCH IN BACKGROUND.

2. FIRST DAY OF MEETING WAS OCCUPIED BY PRESENTATION
OF DR. JOSEPH, DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS OF IATTC,
REGARDING THE COURSE OF THE 1975 FISHING YEAR, THE
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STATUS OF THE FISHERY AT THE PRESENT TIME, AND THE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S SCIENTIFIC STAFF FOR THE COMING FISHING SEASON. DR. JOSEPH BEGAN HIS PRESENTATION WITH A REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE EARLIER TROPICAL PACIFIC TUNA FISHERY AND OF THE ROLE AND WORK OF THE IATTC IN STUDYING AND MANAGING THE TUNA RESOURCES.

3. THE CATCHES OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES FISHING FOR TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC DURING 1975 WERE REVIEWED, REVEALING A TOTAL CATCH TO DATE OF 150,000 OF YELLOWFIN TUNA, THE ONLY SPECIES UNDER REGULATION BY COMMISSION, WITH AN EXPECTED TOTAL CATCH BY YEAR'S END OF AROUND 175,000 TONS. THIS COMPARES WITH 1974 TOTAL CATCH OF 190,000 TONS. AS EFFORT HAS INCREASED IN 1975 FROM THAT OF 1974 AND CATCH HAS DECREASED, CATCH RATE FOR 1975 IS LOWER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS. CATCHES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT U.S. CATCH TO DATE HAS DECLINED TO 104,000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN FROM 1975 CATCH AT SAME DATE OF 120,000 TONS. CANADIAN CATCH AS ALSO DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY, FROM 5,300 TO 2,800 TONS. PANAMANIAN CATCH HAS INCREASED TO 11,900 FROM 4,400 TONS, MEXICAN CATCH TO 13,100 FROM 12,300 TONS, AND ECUADORIAN CATCH TO 7,300 FROM 4,900 TONS. CATCHES OF SKIPJACK TUNA FOR 1975 WERE UP FOR ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., WITH TOTAL UP TO 92,000 TONS FROM 69,000 TONS.

4. DR. JOSEPH CONCLUDED PRESENTATION WITH EXPLANATION OF THE SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC MODELS WHICH COULD APPLY TO TUNA FISHERY, INDICATING THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR WHICH MODEL MIGHT APPLY, COMMISSION STAFF, AS IT SEES ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, BELIEVES THAT CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED IN SETTING OVERALL CATCH LIMITS. THUS COMMISSION STAFF IS RECOMMENDING THAT IT BE GIVEN FLEXIBILITY TO STOP FISHERY IN 1975 AT 140,000 TON LEVEL, WITH POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING CATCH UPWARDS IF WARRANTED BY DATA AS FISHERY PROGRESSES. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THIS LOWER LEVEL CAN BE ACHIEVED, DR. JOSEPH IS RECOMMENDING THAT LAST FREE TRIP OR OTHER CATCHES ALLOWED AFTER CLOSURE OF

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SEASON BE REDUCED OR ELIMINATED. OTHERWISE, CLOSED SEASON CATCHES (INCLUDING LAST FREE TRIP) COULD EXCEED TOTAL QUOTA AND THUS NO OPEN SEASON WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

5. MORNING OF OCTOBER 14 WAS SPENT IN THE QUESTIONING OF DR. JOSEPH BY THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, PRINCIPALLY THE U.S. REGARDING THE MEANING AND IMPLICATIONS OF

HIS PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS OF THE FISHERY AND
OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. MEXICO IS SEIZING EVERY
OPPORTUNITY TO ARGUE FOR PREFERENTIAL COASTAL STATE
AND RPT AND LDC ALLOCATIONS. GOM IS ALSO REPEATING
ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF DR. JOSEPH.

6. NO FORMAL SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON
OF 14TH IN ORDER THAT DELEGATIONS MAY ENGAGE IN
PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO OPENING OF INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL SESSION OF 15TH. U.S. DELEGATION HAS
SCHEDULED DISCUSSIONS WITH DELEGATIONS OF CANADA,
COSTA RICA, PANAMA, AND MEXICO.
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